

particularly given the weight we place on site-specific information as the basis for protection design.

Included within the inventory assessment, at least implicitly, are guidelines for refining the way inventories are conducted. With regard to NHP/TNC inventories, we hope this project leads to a new emphasis on assessing the landscape context for particular sites and species elements. Such evaluation will clearly be aided by including animal species in our inventories to a much greater degree than has been the practice. For the purposes of guild analyses, a high priority should be placed on the documentation of indicator species, whether or not they are rare enough to be designated as NHP elements.

Improved NHP inventories alone, however, will not provide all the information needed for comprehensive conservation planning. The land cover map provided through our partnership with the NCGAP Analysis Program was crucial for our analysis, as were the set of vertebrate site records obtained through our partnership with the Museum.

Developing effective and responsive partnerships between organizations working to protect the nation's biodiversity should be a goal in itself and is being actively promoted by the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, the sponsoring agency for this project. We hope this project serves as a model for biodiversity analysis that can be used elsewhere, both within the state and in other areas, and that additional partners will be encouraged to participate.